

# **Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/812,951

Examiner

Kumiko C. Koyama

Applicant(s)

JEFFERY, R. CLARK

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment received on 27 March 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## **Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                            |                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                           | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|                                                                                                            | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                               |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Amendment received on March 27, 2007 has been acknowledged.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-19 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art of record, McCasland, teaches identifying element that is affixed at all inspection points. The identifying element is a bar code tag or a form of geographical locating system utilizing RF communications means. McCasland teaches a portable device that is provided with a laser bar code scanner, which is a portable reader for reading the indicia on the labels. McCasland also teaches a database that includes all information related to the individual inspection points, archived inspection histories, and unique tag information. McCasland also teaches a process and system software that manipulates database to present data, analyze data, formulate inspection routes, transmit the relevant information to portable device, operate portable device and any associated hardware required to practice the invention. Once the desired route has been created, the route is presented to the users who will perform the route. This may be done using the data card or by making the route visible on a display using an RF network of data transmission network. Directions to each inspection point is provided to the user along with instructions for activities and tasks relative to each inspection points on the optimized schedule. The user performs specific actions as directed by the portable device and records activities or information by using the device to read or deduce a unique code,

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such as a bar code, form the identifying element, which may be a bar coded tag, attached at or near the inspection point. Information gathered or transmitted by or from the portable device is used for archival purposes to determine information such as schedule adherence. Another route is created after determining adherence to an inspection schedule, and creates a route for urgently overdue items.

Another prior art of record, Lovoi, discloses a group of tags, which are called light fixture tags, that is mounted on a light fixture, such as a table lamp or a ceiling lamp. Lovoi further teaches that conventionally these tags are used to control, detect and track items.

However, McCasland or Lovoi, taken alone or in combination fail to teach that the database comprises both locations of the plurality of light fixtures and supplies relating to the plurality of light fixtures, and also identifying supplies required for the identified light fixtures.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kumiko C. Koyama whose telephone number is 571-272-2394. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

*Kumiko C. Koyama*  
Kumiko C. Koyama  
June 08, 2007

  
**MICHAEL G. LEE**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800**